

Application No. 10/667,909
Amendment dated MARCH 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated December 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on December 15, 2005. Applicants respectfully traverse all objections, rejections, and assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 41, 43, 44, 48, 51, 52, and 53 are amended. Claims 54-56 are newly presented. No new matter is added. Claims 41-56 remain pending.

Claims 41-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Klein et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,762,631. Regarding claims 41-47, claim 41 is amended to recite:

providing one or more metallic filaments adapted and configured to be made into the reinforcing member for the medical device, the one or more metallic filaments including a surface having a portion with an initial surface area;

treating at least the portion of the surface of the one or more structural elements to provide a final surface area that is greater than the initial surface area;

creating the reinforcing member using the one or more metallic filaments; and

incorporating the reinforcing member into the construction of the medical device.

Claims 43-44 are amended to be consistent with amended claim 41. Klein et al. does not appear to teach or disclose, for example, one or more metallic filaments or the use of these filaments in the creation of a reinforcing member. Consequently, amended claim 41 is believed to be patentable over Klein et al. Because claims 42-47 depend from claim 41, they are also patentable based on this amendment and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

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Regarding claims 48-52, claim 48 is similarly amended to recite:

a reinforcing member including a metallic filament that includes a surface that includes a portion that has been treated to provide an increased surface area relative to a surface area of the portion prior to treatment;

one or more polymer structures connected to the treated portion of the surface of the metallic filament;

wherein the increased surface area on the portion of the surface of the metallic filament of the reinforcing member allows for a mechanical bond between the reinforcing member and the one or more polymer structures.

Claims 51-52 are amended to be consistent with amended claim 48. Klein et al. does not appear to teach or disclose, for example, a reinforcing member including a metallic filament or a mechanical bond between the reinforcing member and the one or more polymer structures. Consequently, amended claim 48 is believed to be patentable over Klein et al. Because claims 49-52 depend from claim 48, they are also patentable based on this amendment and because they add significant elements to distinguish them further from the art.

Claim 53 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Parisi et al. in U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2001/0027310. Claim 53 is amended to recite that the reinforcing member is metallic. This differs from Parisi et al. where the tubular insert is polymeric. Based on this difference, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 53 is patentable over Parisi et al.

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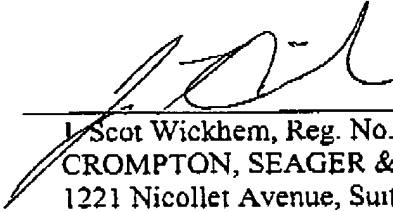
Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By his attorney,

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